

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00113 01 OF 02 130203Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /102 W

-----002381 130253Z /66

O P 130116Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9063
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0113

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NEXT STEPS ON PROXIMITY TALKS

REFS: (A) USUN 097 (B) STATE 008208

1. CONTACT GROUP MET AM JANUARY 12 AND AGREED THAT OUR NEXT
STEPS IN EFFORT TO ARRANGE PROXIMITY TALKS SHOULD BE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00113 01 OF 02 130203Z

APPROACH ONCE MORE BOTH SWAPO (TO URGE THEM TO RECONSIDER THE
POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING TALKS ON JANUARY 23) AND SOUTH AFRICA
(TO URGE THEM TO NAME AN ACCEPTABLE DATE FOR TALKS IN EARLY
FEBRUARY AND TO WARN THEM OF DANGERS OF EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF
ELECTION DATE). GROUP AGREED THAT APPROACH TO SWAPO
SHOULD BE MADE FIRST, AND CONSEQUENTLY CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE
PAUL LAPOINTE, ON BEHALF OF GROUP, TELEPHONED

SWAPO UN REPRESENTATIVE THEO-BEN GURIRAB. LAPOINTE REITERATED THE GROUP'S DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING FOR THE TALKS, NOTED THE URGENCY OF HOLDING FURTHER TALKS, AND URGED SWAPO TO RECONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING ON THE 23RD OF JANUARY. GURIRAB REPLIED THAT SWAPO CANNOT ARRANGE TO MEET WITH GROUP PRIOR TO JANUARY 30 BUT IS WILLING TO MEET AT ANY TIME AFTER THE 30TH. FYI. OUR OWN CONTACTS WITH GURIRAB TODAY HAVE CONFIRMED THE FIRMNESS OF SWAPO'S POSITION. ACCORDING TO GURIRAB, SWAPO APPRECIATES GROUP'S SENCE OF URGENCY BUT FINDS THE ARGUMENTS FOR URGENCY OF PROXIMITY TALKS INCONVICING. SWAPO BELIEVES THAT, IF SOUTH AFRICA IS TRULY COMMITTED TO AN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, THEU WILL AGREE TO TALKS IN EARLY FEBRUARY. IF THEY ARE NOT COMMITTED TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THAT FACT SHOULD NOW BECOME RECOGNIZED. END FYI.

2. GROUP NEXT SET ABOUT DISCUSSING TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. USUN SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS ALONG LINES OF THOSE CONTAINED REF B; HOWEVER, REST OF GROUP, PARTICULARLY BRITISH AND CANADIANS, OBJECTED THAT THE THRUST OF THOSE TALKING POINTS WAS TOO ANTAGONISTIC AND ARGUMENTATIVE. GROUP, THEREFORE, ADJOURNED WHILE CANADIANS DRAFTED NEW VERSION OF TALKING POINTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00113 01 OF 02 130203Z

3. CONTACT GROUP CONVENED AGAIN PM JANUARY 12 TO CONSIDER CANADIAN DRAFT, WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLY COURTEOUS. IN THE FACE OF STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE REST OF THE GROU FOR THE DRAFT, WE WERE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN IT CONSIDERABLY BUT NOT ALTER ITS OVERALL APPROACH. THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS IN PARTICULAR REJECTED ANY FORMULATION WHICH HIGHLIGHTED OR IMPLIED JUDGEMENT ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN UNREASONABLENESS IN RULING OUT TAKS IN FEBRUARY. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER TWO, THEY ARGUED THAT SUCH WORDING WOULD ONLY DRIVE THE SOUTH AFRICANS AWAY FROM RECONSIDERING THE FEBRUARY TIMEFRAME. THE BRITISH CONTINUE TO HOLD FIRMLY AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO LABEL SOUTH AFRICA AS BEING THE CAUSE OF A BREAKDOWN IN THE NEGOTIATING EFFORT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CONCLUDED THAT WITH THE TIME AVAILABLE TO US THIS IS THE MOST FORCEFUL STATEMENT WE CAN GET OUT OF THE GROUP.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00113 02 OF 02 130222Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /102 W

-----002505 130247Z /66

O P 130116Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9064
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0113

4. AS A SIDELIGHT TO TODAY'S EVENTS, CBS CORRESPONDENT RICHARD C. HOTTELET (PROTEXT) INFORMED USUN TODAY THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHAS HAS CANCELLED HIS JANUARY 18 APPOINTMENT WITH CBS. WHEN ASKED IF THE APPOINTMENT COULD BE RESCHEDULED FOR LATER IN JANUARY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REPLIED THAT THAT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. WHEN ASKED IF A FEBRUARY APPEARANCE MIGHT BE ARRANGED, SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT SAY "NO" BUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00113 02 OF 02 130222Z

WAS VAQUE.

5. CONTACT GROUP AGREED, THAT, ONCE TALKING POINTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN CAPITALS, APPROACH SHOULD

BE MADE IMMEDIATELY IN PRETORIA TO FOREIGN MINISTER
BOTH. GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT AMBASSADOR MAKING
APPROACH SHOULD ELABORATE AS APPROPRIATE,
ESPECIALLY ON WARNING AGAINST ELECTION DATE ANNOUNCEMENT.
NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON APPROACHES (SUGGESTED REF B)
TO SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN CONTACT GROUP CAPITALS.

FYI. US HAS NO INTEREST IN HAVING WRITTEN TEXT OF
TALKING POINT DELIVERED TO BOTH. END FYI.

6. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AGREED TALKING POINTS:

QUOTE

OUR RECENT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO FINDING
A VENUE AND A TIME WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR
GOVERNMENTS TO MEET THE PARTIES DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF
TIME AND IN THE SAME CITY. AS WE HAVE ALREADY INDICATED, OUR
PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DISCUSS, IN FULL RECOGNITION OF THE
URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM, THE COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS
WHICH WE HAVE UNDER PREPARATION. ALL CONCERNED HAVE ACCEPTED
NEW YORK CITY AS THE APPROPRIATE VENUE BUT IT HAS SO FAR
BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH UNANIMITY AS TO A DATE FOR SUCH TALKS.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET PRIOR TO THE
OPENING OF YOUR PARLIAMENTARY SESSION BUT SUCH A TIMEABLE
HAS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE. WE CAN BUT STRESS AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE
THAT ATTACHES TO THE HOLDING OF THE KIND OF TALKS WE
ARE ENVISAGING, IF WE ARE TO MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARDS AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00113 02 OF 02 130222Z

INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM.
IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ASK YOU TO PROPOSE AS EARLY A DATE
AS POSSIBLE IN FEBRUARY, AS WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH TIMING
WOULD FIND GENERAL ACCEPTANCE.

WE MUST ALSO URGE YOU ONCE MORE TO REFRAIN, IN THE
MEANTIME, FROM TAKING UNILATERAL ACTIONS, SUCH AS THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATES FOR ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA, WHICH WOULD
PUT IN JEOPARDY THE ENTIRE NEBGOIATING PROCESS. UNQUOTE

LEONARD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780019-0599
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780163/aaaacbre.tel
Line Count: 216
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91a963e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 97, 78 STATE 8208
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3775293
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: NEXT STEPS ON PROXIMITY TALKS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91a963e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014